

**LONG ISLAND SOUND DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
(DMMP)
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(PEIS)**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA):

- Section 102(2)C of NEPA states that “the Federal Government shall...include in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major federal actions significantly affecting the human environment, a detailed statement by the responsible official....that identifies, analyzes, and documents the relevant effects and issues associated with the proposed action and reasonable alternatives.” The detailed statement referred to is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- The NEPA process is:
 - A decision making tool
 - Provides full disclosure
 - Involves the public throughout
 - Integrates all environmental requirements
 - Documents the existing conditions
 - Evaluates alternatives
 - Documents and analyzes impacts
 - Identifies a preferred course of action

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (PEIS):

- A Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement evaluates environmental impacts of broad agency actions such as setting of national policies or the development of programs.
- The LIS DMMP will meet NEPA requirements through the preparation of a PEIS that dredging project proponents can use in their management alternative analysis.
- The PEIS will evaluate the overall impacts of alternatives identified in the DMMP.
- A programmatic approach will allow decision makers a means to evaluate different dredged material disposal options with full knowledge of potential environmental consequences. The PEIS will be an umbrella document that considers generic impacts of options.
- As specific alternatives are put in place to implement a given management option, more detailed NEPA documents may be prepared to evaluate specific impacts resulting from implementation of a given option at a specific location.
- Prepared concurrently with DMMP, in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the Corps of Engineers regulations for implementing NEPA (33 CFR Part 230).
- Prepared also to comply with requirements of other applicable statutes and regulations, including the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, applicable Executive Orders and implementing regulations.

STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR PEIS ANALYSIS:

- Compile and review existing data on:
 - Water quality
 - Sediments
 - Physical oceanography
 - Near bottom modeling
 - Biological Resources, including commercial and recreational fishery and shellfish resources, and threatened and endangered species
 - Cultural Resources
- Determine data gaps that need to be addressed to adequately evaluate the alternatives for dredged material management
- Develop study methodologies to meet the data needs.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- The EIS process ensures that the public is offered an opportunity for involvement in assessing projects subject to review under NEPA and in compliance with CEQ regulations.
- A public involvement program will be conducted throughout the development of the PEIS to provide the public with information on the EIS process, the progress of studies for the PEIS, and to create opportunities for the public to provide input and comment on the development of the PEIS.
- Public involvement activities to include:
 - Public Scoping Meetings – November 2007. Purpose of scoping meetings is to inform the public on the purpose and need of the DMMP and PEIS, and to receive input on the scope of those efforts.
 - Public information sessions and workshops to involve public in progress of study, findings, and direction.
 - Development and mailing of periodic newsletters or fact sheets.
 - 45- day review of Draft EIS
 - Public Meeting/Hearing on Draft EIS
 - Final EIS made available to public for 30 days
 - Media involvement